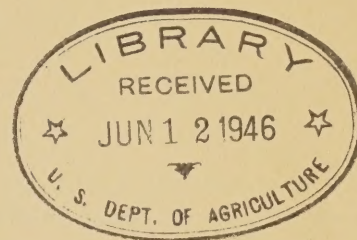


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Reserve

CURRENT EXTENSION·INFORMATION

Reported by Members of the Staff of the Office of
Cooperative Extension Work during
December, 1931.

ADMINISTRATION



C. B. SMITH

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Mr. Simpson, President of the Farmers' Union, Mr. Taber, master of the National Grange, and Mr. O'Neal, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, all spoke from the same platform at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago.

(2) North Dakota reports unusual interest by rural people in extension meetings and recreation activities. Local leaders given four days training by Mr. Jackson of the National Recreation Association, in cooperation with extension agents, are carrying this work on successfully in their own home communities.

(3) Minnesota is holding practically 100 per cent of its county extension agents notwithstanding early fears. Farmers themselves have taken a vigorous part in retaining them.

(4) Missouri Agricultural Extension Service may not be able to offset all its federal extension funds in the current year.

Address all communications to Extension Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

W. H. CONWAY

Activities or conditions noted:

Salaries of a number of county agricultural agents and county home demonstration agents in Arkansas will be reduced during 1932 in amounts ranging from \$100 in some counties to \$720 in others due to reductions in appropriations by quorum counts in the counties.

EASTERN STATES

FLORENCE L. HALL

Activities or conditions noted:

At the annual meeting of the American Home Economics Association held in Detroit in June, 1931, Miss Venia K. Kellar, State home demonstration leader in Maryland, was appointed chairman of the extension section of the association for the coming year. She was asked to gather information from all States regarding readjustments of the home demonstration programs in the present financial situation. As chairman of the committee to gather this information Miss Kellar appointed Mrs. Annette T. Herr, State home demonstration leader in Massachusetts. This report is in three sections and is very comprehensive.

CENTRAL STATES

GRACE E. FRYINGER

Activities or conditions noted:

The service of the Ohio extension staff in training the volunteer visitors of welfare agencies as to desirable suggestions to make to needy families.

Specific pieces of work referred to:

A canning center which was initiated by the State home demonstration leader and home demonstration agent in Franklin County, Ohio, by means of which many thousands of cans of fruit and vegetables have been made available for the use of relief agencies in that county.

SOUTHERN STATES

OLA POWELL MALCOLM

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) 1931 summaries from the Southern States show that home demonstration agents met the drought emergency and present situation with sound economic plans and with courage and devoted service. Larger numbers of farm families have been helped to help themselves. The following statement in Vol. 10, No. 45, of Farm Facts for Farm Folks issued by the Arkansas Extension Service briefly summarizes how home agents in Arkansas led in the rural economic program:

Nearly 40 million quarts of fruits, vegetables, jellies and other home-grown, home processed products have been canned in the 56 counties employing home demonstration agents, according to a summary of data compiled by Miss Connie J. Bonslagel, State home demonstration agent.

"While this is quite an outstanding result, it is only a part of the production and utilization that has been going on in these cooperating counties under the leadership of our county home demonstration agents," Miss Bonslagel declared.

"For instance, 45,592 farm families marketed \$1,114,802 worth of surplus garden, poultry and dairy products; 37,323 farm families have made use of extension methods of utilizing sugar, flour, and feed sacks for 299,733 various articles of clothing; 42,692 families are storing root crops and greens; 42,491 farm families have fall gardens.

"In food preservation work, 1,077 local leaders, farm women specially trained in food preservation work at training schools held by home demonstration agents, have been valuable help to the home demonstration agents in reaching large numbers of farm families. The home demonstration agents established 175 canning centers this year. In addition to the already cited data on the quantity of canned products on the farm pantry shelves, families have dried 2,816,350 pounds of fruits and vegetables for winter use. The home demonstration agents to date have 6,399 beef canning demonstrations scheduled.

"This briefly summarizes some of the activities of this group of rural workers, who are using every conceivable method which will help in saving money for farm families, or creating additional income from special products," Miss Bonslagel concluded.

C. L. CHAMBERS

Activities or conditions noted:

Arkansas is depicting the advantages derived from working out with farm people a definite live-at-home program last year. This offers opportunity to present the advantages of county agent work as well as to pre-

sent the bright side at a time when people are prone to see merely the dark side. Arkansas farmers borrowed fifty million dollars in 1930 as compared to twenty-four million in 1931, and 63 counties employing extension agents will require nearly nineteen million dollars less production credit in 1932 as a result of the well thought out feed and food program launched by county agents in 1931. Attention is called to the fact that though cotton prices are low, yields are double that of last year and the farmer's dollar will purchase 40 per cent more of many things he must buy.

VISUAL INSTRUCTION AND EDITORIAL WORK

REUBEN BRIGHAM

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Pulaski County, Arkansas, in which there are a county agricultural agent and an assistant and a home demonstration agent and an assistant, summarize the results of extension work in their county from 1919 to 1931 in the following comprehensive way:

To-day there are approximately 42,000 acres of rolling land properly terraced as compared with an almost negligible terraced acreage in 1919; \$1,400,000 worth of whole milk has been sold this year in contrast with \$500,000 worth sold 12 years ago; no cream was sold to plants in 1919, whereas \$82,000 worth of cream was sold last year to various companies; a high grade of hogs has taken the place of the 1919 razorback; where there were no pure-bred poultry flocks 12 years ago there are more than 200 highly bred flocks today; the sale of hatching eggs which was not practiced in 1919 brought in \$35,000 to the county last year; more than 200 registered dairy bulls have taken the place of scrub bulls; the 4-H dairy calf club which has been organized since 1919 now has a membership of 60 and has won the State dairy demonstration for the past two years; a cow testing association, organized 3 years ago, now has 400 dairies under test; the number of grass pastures in the county has grown from 78 in 1919 to more than 400 in 1931; 10,000 acres of small grain was planted for pasture and feed crops last fall where no small grain was planted for pasture at all in 1919; the alfalfa acreage has grown from 900 to 2,500 in the 12-year period; no soybeans were planted in 1919 as compared with 10,000 acres of soybeans planted for feed and seed this year; the value of truck crops grown and sold in Pulaski county last year was \$393,000 as compared with \$142,000 in 1919; and two retail and one wholesale farmers markets handling annually produce valued at \$500,000 have been created where no farmers markets existed 12 years ago.

(2) Vermont and West Virginia report rather definite programs for retaining purebred dairy sires until their value has been proved, thus eliminating the wasteful practice of killing sires whose offspring later show them to have been exceedingly valuable in bringing about improved production.

(3) The Lawrence County (Pa.) Cooperative Wool Growers' Association affords an interesting example of a successful inter-county wool growers' cooperative. Seventy-five per cent of the wool produced in the territory served by the cooperative is now marketed through it. The association marketed 61,218 pounds last year.

(4) Effective use of film strips to illustrate the discussion is mentioned in a report on the county extension schools which have been held annually for builders of farm houses and buildings in forty or more counties in Kansas for some years. The specialist, Walter G. Ward, says, "We have found the film strip to be by far the most convenient method of carrying and showing illustrative matter."

L. A. SCHLUP

Specific pieces of work referred to:

As a means of stimulating county extension agents to arouse local interest in the coming nation-wide celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the Arkansas Extension Service on December 8 mailed a letter to all county and home demonstration agents. This letter, which went out over the signature of the State home demonstration agent, the State club leader, the extension forester, and the district agent, gave guiding suggestions for a local program featuring the celebration which included the following proposed activities: (1) A county-wide tree-planting ceremony on the court-house lawn in February; (2) community tree-planting ceremonies on February 22; (3) A George Washington program for the February meeting of each home demonstration, 4-H, or farm club, and (4) pledges by individual adult and junior members to plant one or more memorial trees on or near the home grounds. Cards were inclosed with the letter to facilitate requests from agents for printed program material, instructions for selecting, planting and caring for trees, and similar information.

SUBJECT-MATTER SPECIALISTS

C. D. LOWE

Specific pieces of work referred to:

- (1) Swine feeding schools in Illinois by E. T. Robbins
- (2) Cattle feeding schools in Ohio by L. P. McCann
- (3) Lamb improvement in West Virginia by B. F. Creech
- (4) Calf club work in Ohio by L. P. McCann; in Kentucky by Wayland Rhoads; in Tennessee by L. A. Richardson.

F. D. BUTCHER

Activities or conditions noted:

Early in December entomologists of South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa met with representatives of the Bureau of Entomology to consider the results of the grasshopper egg survey. The survey data gave information as to areas most apt to be concerned with grasshopper control in 1932. An agreement was reached on a standard poison bran mash formula throughout the area represented. This will be valuable to field agents located near state lines where bait formulae given by representatives of more than one State may be encountered.

M. P. JONES

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) At the Peninsula Horticultural Meeting at Salisbury, Md., much time was devoted to orchard spray service. Research and extension workers stressed thoroughness and timeliness of application rather than striving for better control of insects and diseases through new or more expensive insecticides and fungicides.

Much interest was manifested in the community auction method of selling truck crops, as discussed by Mr. W. W. Oley of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture.

MARY ROKAHR

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) Helen N. Estabrook, Extension Specialist in House Furnishing and Home Management, State College Station, Raleigh, North Carolina is using a very interesting set of discussion questions with the sectional conferences being held in North Carolina during December and January. She has supplied copies of the discussion questions together with a typical home management committee report.

(2) The South Carolina Extension Service has made a survey to find out the part the home demonstration agent is playing in relief and unemployment work in that State. Miss Annie Ervin, home demonstration agent, Sumter, South Carolina reported that the banks in her county had financed the purchase of three sets of canning equipment for women who were interested in solving some of their economic problems by canning and preserving for sale.

R. J. HASKELL

Activities or conditions noted:

Apple growers at the annual meeting of the Virginia Horticultural Society, December 9 and 10, spent considerable time in the discussion of the question of regulating the marketing of low-quality apples by truckers. Truck owners buy low-grade apples, sometimes windfalls and culls, and sell them at city markets in competition with well-packed, first-class fruit, thus bringing down the price level and bringing discredit to the Virginia apples. It was proposed that the Federal Government might pass some law whereby unclassified apples could not be moved in interstate commerce.

E. M. NIGHEERT

Specific pieces of work referred to:

Forty-seven counties in Illinois have been organized for horse parasite control this winter. This work requires that each animal be medicated. The work is conducted through the cooperation of county advisers, farmers and veterinarians.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS EXTENSION

H. E. DROBISH

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) Ezra T. Benson, extension specialist in farm management work in Idaho reports an increased demand being made this year for agricultural outlook meetings. The increase over last year is apparently quite marked. County agents, farmers, bankers, and others are becoming sold to the value of outlook information and this is being reflected in the demands for increased service along this line.

(2) On November 6 the Washington State Potato Committee met in Yakima to study all facts and information available on the market outlook for potatoes. Prices were ruling at \$12 - \$13 per ton, f. o. b. for U. S. No. 1 Russet Burbanks. U. S. No. 2 were selling at \$6 per ton. The committee considered all the facts available and concluded that the price of No. 1 Russet Burbanks would probably go higher as the season advanced. This conclusion was supported by a list of the facts reviewed by the committee in arriving at this conclusion. The report of the committee was prominently played up in the Yakima valley newspapers and in the large Washington newspapers on Saturday, November 7 and Sunday, November 8. On Monday, the price of No. 1 potatoes advanced from \$12 - \$13 to \$13 - \$15 per ton.

The advance occurred despite the fact that f. o. b. markets in other parts of the United States showed no increase on that day. The f. o. b. market for Washington potatoes continued to advance until it reached \$18 per ton, f. o. b. for No. 1 Russet Burbanks. No. 2's reached the high mark of \$11 per ton as compared with the price on November 6 of \$6 per ton.

J. K. WALLACE

Activities or conditions noted:

(1) At a series of economic meetings attended in Colorado, the noticeable attitude of stockmen to present market and financial conditions was that although the seriousness of the present situation was realized, there was little radical or depressive talk. It was recognized that conditions were world-wide and were a part of an apparently uncontrollable cycle. No fantastic panaceas were presented for discussion by members of the audience in the general forums that were held in connection with all meetings.

(2) At all gatherings the question most discussed, outside of the particular commodity, was taxes. Taxes were the primary topic with everyone. All sorts of remedies were suggested; many for minor expense cuts. Causes of heavy taxation recognized were:

- (a) Heavy expenditures in times past for roads and bridges
- (b) Excessively equipped schoolhouses
- (c) Too ornate county buildings

All of these were paid for with bonds which are now beginning to come due. The sinking fund requirements and interest on many of these, compared to total farm income, is what is creating most of the burden now. Discussion was heard, also, on the heavy local share of State and interstate highway costs as being out of proportion to the local benefits derived. Thought is crystallizing on the idea of using future county funds and the county share of gasoline taxes for the building of more rural roads for the benefit of home folks rather than for tourists and interstate travelers during the next two or three years.

D. W. WATKINS

Specific pieces of work referred to:

(1) The Oklahoma Extension Service was represented at the Southern Regional Outlook Conference at Memphis by a large group of specialists and district agents in addition to the farm management and marketing specialists. Shortly afterward a group conference of State specialists was called for the purpose of planning next year's work. Each specialist had a

copy of the outlook as formulated at the regional conference and was asked to study this and revise his plan of work wherever that seemed to be necessary in the light of the economic information available. This apparently led to a more thorough study of the outlook reports than would have been made otherwise. At this group conference an opportunity was arranged for the research workers of the Oklahoma Experiment Station to present contributions of significance from their results, and this not only was of service in assisting specialists in making sounder plans but incidentally seems to be an ideal way to maintain harmony between extension and research workers in the same field, especially in a State where the extension and research work is separated in administration.

(2) The Texas Extension Service provided a place on their district county agent programs this year for a discussion of the outlook material developed at Memphis. The agents and specialists showed a great deal of interest in outlook information and asked quite a number of questions. Upon returning to the office I had a letter from the director of extension in which he expressed more interest in outlook than I expected. Apparently the way is open for the use of outlook information in this State, provided information is presented in such a way that its direct relation to work already under way can be shown.

(3) Home demonstration agents in Texas have been active in the "live-at-home" part of the extension program. They are not merely advocating the preservation and canning of larger quantities of food stuffs but have prepared definite budget suggestions with a view that gardens will be planted and that canning programs will be carried out to afford a balanced diet for the farm family throughout the year. In one of their district meetings a farm woman was called upon to state her experience and she mentioned that before the pantry budget idea was inaugurated she had canned several hundred cans of tomatoes and string beans but very little else and found that the family still had to purchase quite a lot of food stuffs while they had a considerable surplus of these two vegetables. She stated that since she had been canning according to the pantry budget plan that the variety of foods made available to her family has greatly increased and very little surplus canning is done. This food preservation includes not only vegetables, but in Texas the farm and home agents are working together and giving meat cutting and canning demonstrations, and large quantities of various kinds of meats produced on the farm are being canned and preserved in other ways. This work seems to me to be about the most outstanding of its kind that I have observed.

